

Tom Miller  
Yarmouth  
LD 511

Dear Transportation Committee,

I am a resident of Yarmouth, and would like to urge the Transportation Committee to vote in support of LD 511. Please vote "ought to pass." As a resident of Yarmouth, parent of 3 school-aged children, and someone who commutes to Portland and Scarborough daily, it's difficult to express how excited I am for the prospect of a traffic-separated trail connecting Portland to Auburn. One of the reasons we chose to move to Yarmouth was the number of traffic-separated trails connecting the town that allow us to enjoy biking/walking to the grocery store, school, soccer, little league, etc. I strongly support an interim trail option that would enhance the options we already have in Yarmouth and extend for additional commuting distances. I also sometimes bike commute to Portland and have bike commuted in different cities throughout my life; when I try to convert others to that option explaining that it's the most impactful activity I do for my mental health, one of the biggest barriers is fear of cars on roads with variable shoulders. It's important to remove barriers to chip away at active transportation and recreation and a trail corridor would do that. A trail corridor would enhance options for short distances with around town trips for kids and adults, as well as further distances for both recreation and non-recreation purposes. I therefore am writing in strong support of the recommendations of the Portland to Auburn Rail use Advisory Council. I've had the opportunity to sit on councils addressing trail development, and my understanding from the research I've been exposed to is that trail development always adds value to communities that invest. A bicycle and pedestrian trail will be a timely and crucial investment for our communities, our environment, and our health. Sincerely, Tom Miller, Yarmouth, ME